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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4709
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1654
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5229
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7531
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1746
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3583
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4693
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - HAMAS-FATAH CLASHES

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Most Thursday morning papers gave top play to the Diet's enactment on Wednesday of legislation extending by two years the Iraq Assistance Special Measures Law.

¶2. "Palestinian Split: Restructuring of Peace Diplomacy Should be Hastened" Business-oriented Nihon Keizai editorialized (6/21): "... The unified Palestinian government has collapsed as a result of the armed conflict between Hamas and Fatah. Although Palestinian President Abbas created an emergency cabinet in the West Bank, Fatah's split with Hamas, which effectively controls the Gaza strip, is likely to become protracted.... President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert agreed to provide full support to Abbas, with the USG resuming direct assistance, suspended since the spring of 2006, for the Palestinian government. It is not certain, however, whether the US assistance for Fatah will contribute to isolating the Gaza strip and weakening Hamas.... While exploring a resumption of peace talks with President Abbas, Israel is likely to face off militarily with Hamas in the Gaza strip, forcing a strategic review of relations with Syria. The successful resumption of peace talks between Israel and Syria will be crucial to the future of the Middle East peace process. The international community should try harder to create a diplomatic environment in which Prime Minister Olmert can launch a new peace offensive."

DONOVAN